

Biologist, at the above address  
(Telephone 602/379-4720, FTS 261-4720).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that for any petition to revise the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) shall make a finding within 90 days of the date of receipt of the petition on whether the petition (a) presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted, or (b) does not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. Such a 90-day finding is to be published promptly in the *Federal Register*.

A petition, dated December 20, 1989, from Thomas Hulen of the Pueblo Grande Museum in Phoenix, Arizona, was received by the Service on December 26, 1989. The petition requested the Service to list a clam, the California floater (*Anodonta californiensis*) as an endangered or threatened species.

The California floater is a freshwater mussel that is found in Pacific drainages of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona; southern British Columbia, Canada; and Chihuahua and possibly Sonora, Mexico. In its larval stage it is parasitic on the gills, fins, or barbels of fish. Whether the California floater is host-specific to a certain species or genus of fish is unknown. As an adult, the floater lives in sand and mud on stream bottoms. The life span is unknown, but closely related species live for 10 to 15 years.

Threats to the California floater come primarily from alteration and destruction of riverine habitats, including channelization, dredging, impoundment, erosion, siltation, water diversion, groundwater pumping, pollution, and watershed modifications. Status of the California floater may also be tied to a specific fish or group of fish that serve as hosts for the larval stage. Many of the native fishes within the range of the floater are depleted by habitat alteration and by competition and predation by non-native fishes introduced by humans either inadvertently or for various purposes. The proliferation of the introduced Asian clam (*Corbicula manilensis*) may also be adversely affecting the California floater through interspecific competition.

**50 CFR Part 17**

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Finding on Petition to List the California Floater (Clam)**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of 90-day petition finding.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces a 90-day petition finding for a petition to amend the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The petition to list a clam, the California floater (*Anodonta californiensis*), does not present substantial information to indicate that listing the species as endangered or threatened is warranted.

**DATES:** The finding announced in this notice was made on September 18, 1990.

**ADDRESSES:** Information, comments, or questions regarding the petition may be submitted to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 3616 West Thomas, Suite 6, Phoenix, Arizona 85019. The petition, petition finding, and supporting data are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sally Stefferud, Fish and Wildlife

Information in the petition indicates that, although the California floater was apparently historically relatively widespread in Arizona, it is now restricted to only one area of the upper Black River in eastern Arizona and possibly in Chevelon Creek in north central Arizona. Historic populations in the Colorado River have been extirpated due to extensive modification of the habitat by dams, channelization, water diversion, and dredging. Other historic Arizona populations, such as those in the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers, have been extirpated by the drying up of those rivers through water diversion, groundwater pumping, and watershed modification. Data also exist that indicate that populations of California floater have been extirpated in the area of Los Angeles, California, by channelization and other modifications of the habitat.

No data are available on the California floater in the majority of its range. The status of the species in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, northern California, Utah, and Chihuahua is unknown. Although many of the streams in that range have been subject to various degrees of modification by humans, there is no information to support an assumption that the California floater has been substantially depleted or is subject to serious threats throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The Service has reviewed the best scientific and commercial information available on the California floater, and has determined that the petition did not present substantial information indicating that listing this species as endangered or threatened may be warranted.

The Service intends to add the California floater to the list of species considered to be candidates for Federal listing as a category 2 species. Category 2 species are those for which information now in possession of the Service indicates that proposing to list as endangered or threatened is possibly appropriate, but for which conclusive data on biological vulnerability and threats are not currently available to support a proposed rule.

The Service would appreciate any additional data, comments, and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any interested party concerning this species.

#### Author

This notice was prepared by Sally Stefferud (see ADDRESSES) and Sonja Jahrsdoerfer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque,

New Mexico 87103 (505/766-3972 or FTS 474-3972).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and record-keeping requirements, and Transportation.

Dated: October 17, 1990.

**Richard N. Smith,**

*Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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